

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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P R 011400Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1366
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
CINCLANT
USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6113

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, OCLR, NATO, GR, TU
SUBJ: FY 78 TACTICAL AIR DEPLOYMENTS

REF: A. STATE 147114 (DTG 240009Z JUN 77)
B. USNATO 6109 (DTG 271814Z JUN 77)

1. WHEN PREVIOUS MESSAGES ADDRESSED PLANNED DEPLOYMENTS OF RF-4 AIRCRAFT TO LARISSA AIR BASE, DEPLOYMENTS WERE DESCRIBED AS THE EXERCISING OF COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES (COBS). WE HAD AT THAT TIME INDICATED THAT, ALTHOUGH PLANNING TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A COBS AGREEMENT IN GREECE COULD PROCEED, WE DID NOT WANT ON-GOING U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS ENCUMBERED BY OTHER FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS. THIS REMAINS OUR POSITION.

2. NEVERTHELESS, GREEK AUTHORITIES ARE WELL AWARE THAT LARISSA IS DESIGNATED AS THE PROJECTED COB IN GREECE. (IN FACT, THE HELLENIC
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AIR FORCE NOW OPERATES 19 A-7H'S FROM THAT LOCATION, AND INTENDS TO PLACE ITS OWN RF-4'S THERE IN LATE CY 78.) THEREFORE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT SUCH A DEPLOYMENT AS THAT PROPOSED IN REF A COULD BE BROACHED WITHOUT MUDDYING THE DCA DISCUSSIONS, SINCE COORDINATION WILL OCCUR THROUGH NATO MILITARY CHANNELS AND NOT BILATERALLY.

3. FURTHERMORE, WE AGREE THAT SUCH A PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT IS A

LOGICAL ADDITIONAL STEP IN THE RE-CREATION OF A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL
ATMOSPHERE. WE SEE NO FACTORS AT THIS TIME WHICH WOULD ARGUE FOR
OUR NOT APPROACHING THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

4. TWO CAUTIONARY NOTES: USMISSION NATO IN REF B CORRECTLY POINTS
OUT THAT COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE A PROBLEM IN
VIEW OF THE OFT-EXPRESSED GREEK DESIRE NOT TO DEAL WITH TURKEY-
BASED NATO COMMANDERS. ALSO, EMPLOYMENT OF THE DEPLOYED AIRCRAFT
IN DISPUTED AEGEAN AIR SPACE OR IN CONNECTION WITH TURKISH AND/OR
TURKEY-BASED U.S. AIRCRAFT MIGHT WELL NOT BE FEASIBLE, OR MIGHT
BE SEVERELY CURTAILED. SHAPE AND AFSOUTH HAVE MANAGED THESE
PROBLEMS BEFORE AND IT WILL BE, WE BELIEVE, IN OUR INTEREST TO
HAVE THIS PROBLEM WORKED IN NATO FOR ALL THE ALLIES TO SEE.
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Message Attributes

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